



Athena = Minerva
Ares = Mars
Hera = Juno
Artemis = Diana
Poseidon = Neptune
Apollo = Apollo

Zeus = Jupiter, Jove

The Trojan War: Part Three

The Death of Hector and the Ransoming of His Body

Achilles [uh-KILL-eez], wearing his new armor, left his tent and went to where his comrades and special troops, the Myrmidons, were waiting. They gazed at him with admiration and awe. Their need for him was desperate. Many of the soldiers were either wounded or exhausted.

The Trojans, under Hector [HEK-ter], fought gallantly, desperately, and madly. Even the great river of Troy, called Xanthus or Scamander, took part and tried to drown Achilles as he crossed it. But it was all in vain—the Champion of the Greeks came on, killing all who stood in his way, looking for Hector. The gods were fighting too. Athena [uh-THEEN-uh], War Goddess, knocked down Ares [AIR-eez], War God. Hera [HEE-ruh] grabbed Artemis's [AR-tem-is-iz] bow away from the Huntress and boxed her ears with it, as she had wanted to do for some time. Poseidon [poh-SIE-don] jeered at Apollo [uh-PAW-loh] and dared him to strike first, but Apollo wisely refused. He knew what Fate had in store for Hector—why struggle?

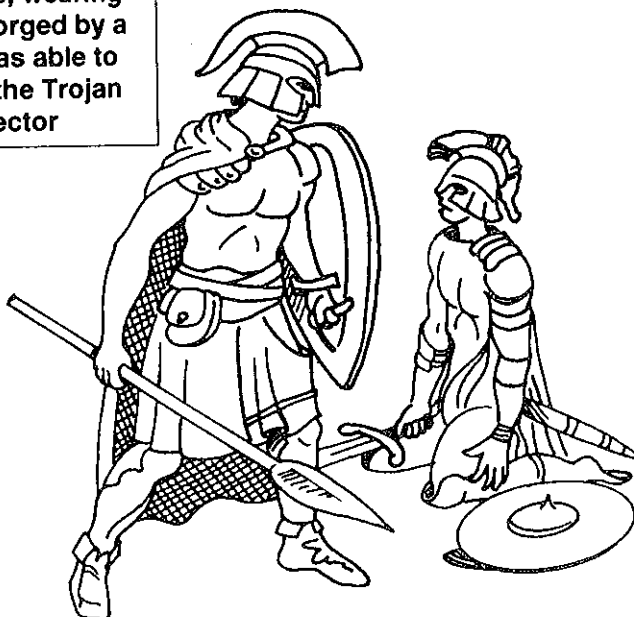
Zeus [ZOOS] watched the fracas from above and chuckled to see god fighting god, civil war within his Olympian family. How he had tried to keep them in order!

By now the great Scaean gates of Troy were thrown open, and the people—soldiers and citizens—were streaming into the town. Only Hector, bound by Fate, took his stand before the walls. From the top of the gate, his old father, Priam [PRY-uhm], and mother, Hecuba [HEH-kue-buh], called down to him to save himself and come inside, but he wouldn't listen. He had a task to perform for the honor of his country, regardless of the danger to himself.

Achilles threw his spear. Hector crouched and it flew over his head.

Hector threw his spear and missed. Athena brought Achilles a fresh spear. Hector, drawing his sword, the only weapon he had, rushed his foe. It was no contest. Achilles wore armor, wrought by a god, which could not be pierced. Hector wore the armor he had taken from Patroclus that had once belonged to Achilles. The Greek champion knew of a small open spot in the neck of that armor. He drove his spearpoint into Hector's throat. Falling and dying, the Trojan hero begged that his body be returned to his parents. But Achilles steadfastly refused, and the valiant soul of Hector took flight for Hades.

Achilles, wearing armor forged by a god, was able to defeat the Trojan Hector



Most of the gods, watching from above, were shocked and appalled by Achilles' refusal to return Hector's body to his family. Zeus was especially displeased. He sent Iris [I-ris], his rainbow-messenger, to poor, old Priam to tell this tragic king of Troy that he must ransom and redeem the body of his son. She was to tell the old man that Achilles was not really evil, but was overwrought by the death of his friend, Patroclus. If Priam went to him as humble petitioner, a suppliant, Achilles would receive him with courtesy and hear his plea.

Heeding the god's words, Priam filled a chariot with treasure and went to the Greek camp with Hermes [HER-meez] as his guide. Meanwhile, the funeral rites for Patroclus had been performed. These religious ceremonies had softened the heart of Achilles and cured him of his rage and grief. He now felt bad for not returning Hector's corpse, so he was in the right mood when Priam came into his presence, knelt down, embraced his knees, and kissed the hands that had killed his son.

Achilles' heart grew tender with grief. He received the old man with all kindness and respect. He guaranteed a truce for Hector's funeral rites and returned his body to Priam. He told his servants to anoint Hector's body with fragrant oil and cover it with a downy robe.

The mourning went on for nine days. Then they laid him on a high funeral pyre. When all was reduced to ashes, they put out the fire with wine and placed the bones in a golden funeral urn, then covered it in a purple shroud. They dug a grave and set the urn in it and covered it with big stones.

Hermes = Mercury



Hermes

Beyond the Myth

1. What does the fight between Achilles and Hector reveal about the characters of the two heroes? Who has the most advantage and why?
2. What has happened to Achilles between the death of Hector and Priam's visit to the Greek camp? Why do you suppose his mood changed?
3. Research funeral customs of other cultures. Are any of them similar to those described here?

Define:

suppliant
funeral pyre

urn
fracas

ransom
redeem

Locate on a map:

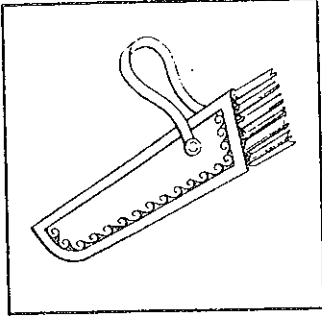
Xanthus (or Scamander) River

Name _____ Date _____

The Trojan War: Part Three

1. The gods fight among themselves: Athena knocks down _____, and _____ beats _____ with her own bow.
2. The great _____ gate of Troy is thrown open, and the people pour into town.
3. From the tower on top of the gate, _____ and _____ call out to their son to save himself.
4. The armor that Hector wore had a small open spot in the _____.
5. Achilles refused to return Hector's _____ to his parents.
6. Zeus sent his rainbow-messenger, _____, to Priam telling him that to recover the body of his son he must go to Achilles as a _____.
7. By this time Achilles had been somewhat calmed and sobered by the _____ rites of his friend Patroclus.
8. The mourning for Hector went on for _____ days.
9. The body was burned on a funeral _____ and the ashes placed in a golden _____.
10. They set the _____ in a grave and covered it with big _____.

The Trojan War: Part Four



The Wooden Horse and the Fall of Troy

Even the longest wars must end sometime. The war between the Greeks and the Trojans ended finally after ten years—not by a decisive military victory, but by a strategic trick.

Hector [HEK-ter] was dead, and Achilles [uh-KILL-eez] knew his own end was near. He fought on and won more glory. But then, as the Greeks laid siege again to the city of Troy, Paris [PAIR-is], whose “judgment” had started the war, shot an arrow at him. Guided by Apollo [uh-PAW-loh], it flew true to the one spot where Achilles could be hurt—his heel. When he was a baby, his mother, Thetis [THEE-tis], had dipped him in the River Styx to make him invulnerable to weapons. She neglected, however, to dip the part of his foot by which she held him. So the Champion of the Greeks died of an infected, festering wound in the heel.

The only way to gain a victory would be to take the town of Troy by surprise. The great Greek warrior Odysseus [oh-DIS-see-uhs] developed the strategy of the wooden horse. He found a skilled artisan, a woodcarver, to make a wooden horse, hollow and big enough to hold a whole squad of men inside, including himself. The plan was for the other Greeks to dismantle the camp, take to the ships, and pretend to be sailing off for home. Instead, they would hide behind the nearest islands and headlands. A single Greek would be left behind with a story made up to persuade the Trojans to take the horse into the city without inspecting it too closely. In the darkest part of the night, the Greeks hidden in the horse would come out and open the city gates. Meanwhile, the main part of the army would come back and be ready by the wall.

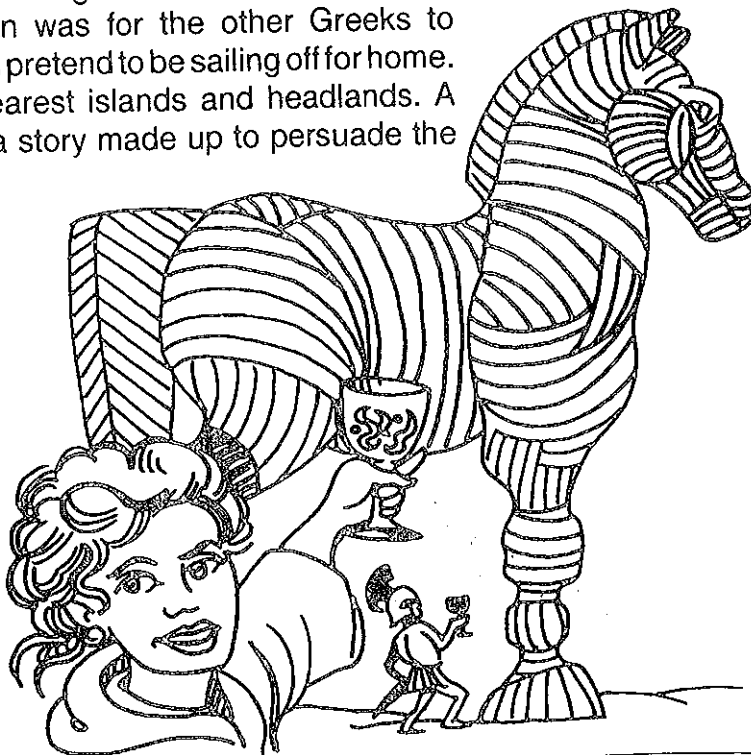
When dawn came, the last day for Troy, the Trojans beheld two sights that amazed them: the deserted Greek camp and the enormous wooden horse by the Scaean gates. The horse rather frightened them, but the departure of the Greeks filled them with joy, and they began to feast and celebrate. The long, cruel war was over at last!

Then the Greek left behind, Sinon [SIE-non], appeared. They

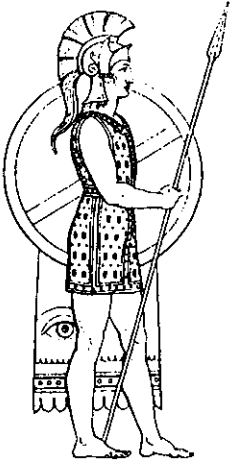


Paris

Odysseus = Ulysses



Greek warriors hid inside the wooden horse until the Trojans let down their guard.

Athena = Minerva**Greek Warrior***Aphrodite = Venus*

dragged him to King Priam [PRY-uhm] where, under questioning, he groaned and cried that he was a Greek no more. Athena [uh-THEEN-uh], he said, had been greatly angered by the theft of one of her statues by the Greek soldiers. An oracle had told the Greeks she could only be appeased with blood sacrifice. Poor Sinon had been chosen for the sacrifice, but at night he had escaped and hidden out in the marshes along the river until the ships sailed off. (Odysseus had invented this story.)

The Trojans, exhilarated by the end of the war, showed compassion to Sinon and brought him food and drink. Sinon went on to explain about the horse. It had been made as an offering to Athena, he told them. It had been made big so that the Trojans would find it hard to take it into the city. The Greeks hoped the Trojans would destroy it, bringing down the wrath of Athena upon them. But if somehow it could be taken into the city, it would win the favor of the goddess.

They dragged the horse to the gate and even knocked down part of the wall to give it more room. Once they had set it up inside they went on their way, feasting and rejoicing, feeling both exhilaration and exhaustion after ten years of war and siege.

At midnight, as the city slept, Odysseus and the other chiefs crept out of the horse and dropped down into the street. They threw the gates open wide; the Greek army waiting outside rushed in. They lit fires. They stationed small bands of warriors by each house. By the time the Trojans woke up and discovered the terrible truth, Troy was burning. In utter confusion, as they struggled out, putting on their armor, they were met by Greeks who cut them down.

By morning King Priam and all the Trojan princes and chieftains were dead except Aeneas [ee-NEE-uhs], saved by his mother, Aphrodite [af-roh-DIE-tee], the only god who helped a Trojan that day. Aeneas fought as long as he could, then he went to see to the safety of his own family: his father, his wife, and their little son. Guided by Aphrodite, the four of them



Trojans ran for their lives as the Greeks burned and looted the city.

ran quickly through the flaming streets, Aeneas carrying his father on his back, clasping his son's hand, his wife hurrying along by their side. But in the fear and panic of that awful time, his wife was separated from the rest and lost. Aeneas got his father and son away through the gates and out into the open fields. Though he mourned the loss of his wife, he would live long and have many adventures, and his descendants would be the founders of a great city—Rome.

Aphrodite saved Helen, too. Menelaus [men-eh-LAY-ohs] had been looking for her through the streets of the burning city, his sword poised to kill her and avenge his honor. But when the Love Goddess brought her to him, his love for her overwhelmed him. Gladly he took her into his arms, and soon they would sail away together, back to Sparta.

So it happened that Troy—the fortress city that had withstood the attacks of the Greek heroes for ten years—was conquered by deceit and treachery.



**Aphrodite Leading
Aeneas to Safety**

Beyond the Myth

In the last days of the Trojan War, are your sympathies more with the Greeks or with the Trojans? Explain.

Identify:

River Styx
Sinon

The Wooden Horse
Aeneas

Define:

Achilles' heel
artisan

invulnerable
pillage

Name _____ Date _____

The Trojan War: Part Four

1. Achilles' mother, Thetis, had dipped him in the _____ to make him invulnerable to weapons.
2. A vulnerable spot somewhere is called an "Achilles' _____."
3. Achilles was killed by _____.
4. Odysseus developed the idea of the _____.
5. The Greeks pretended to be _____
_____.
6. One Greek, named _____, was left behind.
7. He explained that the horse was an offering to _____.
8. The Trojans brought the horse into the town. At midnight, _____ and other Greeks hidden in the horse came out and opened the gates.
9. There followed pillage, burning, looting, and killing. Among the few who survived was _____, son of Aphrodite.
10. The King of Sparta, _____, went looking for his former wife, _____, to kill her for her desertion, but he decided to take her back when the goddess _____ brought her to him.